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CORRESPONDENCE.

HABITS OF THRIPS.

Possibly the readers of PSYCHE may be interested in an observation that I have recently made upon the food-habits of *Thrips*, which, though it may have been noticed often, I do not find recorded in works at hand.

A few days since, finding *Thrips* (a species of *Phloeothrips* of which I find no description) very abundant in all the fruit blossoms that I examined, I was led to notice more particularly their method of work, and soon became convinced that they were doing much damage by preventing fertilization, as their injuries to the tender style would cut off all communication between the stigma and the ovary. A careful examination of a number of unopened buds revealed the fact that in eighty per cent of them the style had been more or less injured by biting and puncturing, while the great number of *Thrips* present could leave no doubt that they were the authors of the mischief. In the majority of the buds examined the styles seemed to be injured far more than any of the other parts of the blossom. Less than ten per cent of the buds examined contained larvae of *Tortricidae*. Of the remaining buds a small percentage contained no *Thrips*, perhaps because they were not quite so far advanced as the other buds. The *Thrips* probably enter the buds as soon as they can crowd in between the overlapping petals.

If the habits of *Thrips* are, in general, as described above they have an economic as well as a scientific interest.

Herbert Osborn.

Ames, Iowa, 23 May 1882.

PROCEEDINGS OF SOCIETIES.
CAMBRIDGE ENTOMOLOGICAL CLUB.

(Continued from p. 328.)

10 FEB. 1882.—82nd meeting. Mr. S. H. Scudder exhibited a copy of Brongniart's recent paper on fossil insects forming an Annexe to Andrée's work on hymenoptera, in which are discussed the fossil hymenoptera of the periods since the lias. He also showed a proof page of his own index to zoological genera, explaining the plan of the work. Mr. Scudder called attention to the very low prices at which the collections of coleoptera of Mr. E. P. Austin and of the late Mr. G. D. Smith were offered for sale.

Mr. S. H. Scudder exhibited a drawing illustrating the wing of a heteropterous insect from carboniferous strata, of a period earlier than any in which heteroptera had been found. He also showed a very perfect carboniferous cockroach.

Mr. W. Trelcase remarked on the part that insects play in the pollination of New Zealand flowers, with reference to what has been published on the subject, especially to the communications of Charles Darwin and G. Thomson.

Mr. R. Hayward spoke of the insects—*carabidae*, *dytiscidae*, *Aphodius* and *notonectidae*—found in the stomach of a kingfisher (*Ceryle alcyon*) in Maine, last summer. Attention was drawn to the large proportion of *carabidae*.

10 MARCH 1882.—83rd meeting. Mr. A. P. Chadbourne, of Cambridge, Mass., was elected a member. The constitution and by-laws of the Club were amended. [See p. 335.]

Mr. S. H. Scudder showed a paper by Dr. Fritsch, of Prag, on a fossil ephemerid and on other fossil insects, commenting on the paper and calling attention to the figures of cretaceous insects as being almost the first insects of this period figured, and forming an important contribution to our knowledge of fossil insects.

Mr. S. H. Scudder showed figures of American tertiary *ephemeridae* from Florissant, Col., showing that in the form of the body, in the stoutness of the legs, and in the respiratory apparatus they differ strikingly from living forms. Remarks were also made on the first fossil lepidismid, showing to what extent it differs from living lepidismids. Mr. Scudder also showed the first early pretertiary insect found in Colorado, discovered near Fairplay.